

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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P 090900Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO USMTM DHAHRAN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 877

SECDEF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, SA

SUBJECT: LETTER TO MINDEF SULTAN ON RSN

OJT-AFLOAT TRAINING

REF: A. STATE 70636 B. CNO WASHINGTON DTG 060700Z APR 75

1. FOLLOWING LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR AKINS TO MINDEF SULTAN, DATED APRIL 8, WILL BE DELIVERED WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS. COPY ALSO BEING POUCHED TO USMTM DHAHRAN.

2. BEGIN TEXT: YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS: AS YOUR HIGHNESS IS AWARE, WE HAVE DESIRED FOR SOME TIME TO ASSIST THE ROYAL SAUDI NAVY IN ACQUIRING MORE PRACTICAL, ON-THE-JON TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE. THIS ISSUE WAS RAISED WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM CLEMENTS LAST NOVEMBER BY HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE TURKI. THE UNITED STATES NAVY HAS NOW DEVELOPED A COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM, DETAILS OF WHICH ARE BEING TRANSMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY TRAINING MISSION (USMTM) WHICH WILL IN TURN CONVEY THEM TO THE ROYAL SAUDI NAVY (RSN). UNDER THIS PROPOSAL, RSN PERSONNEL WILL RECEIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRAINING ON UNITED STATES NAVAL VESSELS AND AT UNITED

STATES NAVAL FACILITIES IN THE UNITED STATES, AS WELL AS
ON VESSELS OF THE ROYAL SAUDI NAVY.

3. WHEN I LEARNED OF HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE TURKI'S REQUEST
OF LAST NOVEMBER TO MR. CLEMENTS, IT IMMEDIATELY OCCURED
TO ME THAT THE PRESENCE IN THE AREA OF NAVAL VESSELS
ATTACHED TO OUR MIDDLE EAST FORCES (MIDEASTFOR) PROVIDED
A TRAINING OPPORTUNITY WHICH SHOULD BE UTILIZED FOR THE
BENEFIT OF THE ROYAL SAUDI NAVY. ACCORDINGLY, I URGED
THAT EVERY CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE POSSIBILITY OF
TAKING RSN PERSONNEL ON BOARD MIDEASTFOR SHIPS FOR EXTENDED,
PRACTICAL TRAINING CRUISES -- CRUISES OF AT LEAST TWO WEEKS'
DURATION, AND POSSIBLY LONGER, SO THAT PERSONNEL HAVE
AN OPPORTUNITY TO BECOM EACCUSTOMED TO LIFE AND WORK ABOARD
SHIP. I AM PLEASED TO INFORM YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS THAT THIS
SUGGESTION HAS BEEN APPROVED.

4. ON APRIL 1 THE U.S.S. TRIPPE TOOK ON BOARD FOUR RSN
OFFICERS AND TEN ENLISTED MEN FOR A TEN-DAY CRUISE TO DAMMAN.
THE EXPERIENCE GAINED ON THIS CRUISE WILL BE UTILIZED IN
DRAWING UP PLANS FOR FUTURE, LONGER CRUISES. BEGINNING
IN OUR NEW FISCAL YEAR (JULY 1, 1975) WE WOULD EXPECT TO
HAVE AT LEAST ON E EXTENDED CRUISE EVERY THREE MONTHS IN
WHICH RSN PERSONNEL WOULD PARTICIPATE. THE ROYAL SAUDI
NAVY WILL BE ASKED TO PAY FOR ANY CLEARLY IDENTIFIABLE
EXPENSES RESULTING FROM THE SAUDI PRESENCE ON BOARD;
THESE EXPENSES SHOULD , HOWEVER, BE QUITE REASONABLE. WE
HOPE THROUGH THIS JOINT TRAINING EFFORT TO UTILIZE TO OUR
MUTUAL BENEFIT RESOURCES OF THE UNITED STAES GOVERNMENT
IN THE REGION, AND TO FURTHER IN YET ANOTHER WAY THE GROWTH
OF THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR MILITARY
SERVICES AND OUR GOVERNMENTS.

5. THE UNITED STATES NAVY SECTION OF THE USMTM WILL BE
IN TOUCH WITH THE ROYAL SAUDI NAVY IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO
DISCUSS THE ABOVE AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSED
TRAINING PROGRAM.

6. PLEASE ACCEPT MY SINCERE, PERSONNAL BEST WISHES. END TEXT.

AKINS

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